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Viewing cable 06SANTODOMINGO238, DOMINICANS ORGANIZING PRE-OAS-ASSEMBLY

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Understanding cables

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Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06SANTODOMINGO238	$8\frac{2006-01-23}{11:07}$	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Santo Domingo

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 000238

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/19/2009

TAGS: PGOV PREL OPDC DR OAS HA

SUBJECT: DOMINICANS ORGANIZING PRE-OAS-ASSEMBLY

PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT; FM ON VENEZUELA; ALEMAN INVESTIGATION

REF: A. 2005 STATE 197220

_B. LINDWALL/MEIGS E-MAILS 1/09/06

Classified By: EcoPol Counselor Michael Meigs. Reason: 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Dominican Foreign Minister Carlos Morales Troncoso told the Ambassador and visitng WHA Deputy Assistant Secretary Patrick Duddy on January 12 that the Dominicans are

SIPDIS

hoping to organize a summit meeting of U.S.-friendly presidents on May 28-29, the week before the OAS General Assembly of June 3-6, to improve the atmosphere for the Assembly. They hope that President Bush will accept an invitation to attend the event. Relations with Venezuela have been cool since Ferandez supported the FTAA at Mar de Plata. The FM had no immediate comment on USG interest in seeing prosecution of former president of Nicaragua Aleman.

OAS -- AND A LIMITED EARLY SUMMIT

- 12. (C) In a private conversation on January 12 with the Ambassador and visiting WHA Deputy Assistant Secretary Patrick Duddy, Dominican Foreign Minister Morales Troncoso deplored the events at the Mar de Plata summit, where presidents Kirschner and Chavez embarrassed other presidents at the event. Morales commented that President Bush had shown command and had tremendous impact. The Dominicans do not intend to allow their OAS event to be manipulated. They would like to invite "the real, true friends of the United States" to a meeting on May 28-29. Morales suggested that the newly-elected president of Haiti could attend. He noted that President Fox of Mexico was proposing a "Plan Puebla Panama" to counter Chavez's "Petrocaribe"; the meeting could include potential participants and CAFTA partners. Morales suggested invitations to Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua -- "all of Central America, all the best allies of the United States." In total, he said, this would make 9 presidents. The Dominicans could invite OAS SecGen Insulza, or not, depending on the concept of the event. Morales Troncoso portrayed the suggestion as an opportunity for the U.S. president to show his interest in Latin America in an event that could be carried out in a single day.
- 13. (C) The Dominicans intend the OAS summit here in Casa del Campo to be thoroughly pre-scripted. Morales said that they would avoid "the problems of Ft. Lauderdale and Mar de Plata. . . Insulza wants this to be his first successful General Assembly."

HAITI

- 14. (C) He again characterized Ambassador to Haiti Juan Serulle as "crazy." The following day he would be attending the Ministry's chief of missions seminar, and he intended to "grill" Serulle in front of the assembly. Fernandez does not like to change ambassadors, the Minister said, but Serulle was "on his way out." (Morales tried to get Serulle canned last year but was unsuccessful.)
- 15. (C) UN Special Representative to Haiti Juan Gabriel Valdez had met President Fernandez and Morales Tronocoso on December 28 in La Romana and subsequently spoke to OAS SyGen Insulza. Morales commented that Valdez and his team are "stretched absolutely to the maximum" in the effort to prepare the elections in Haiti.

16. (C) The Minister said there had been no more than 3 or 4 days of advance planning for Fernandez's visit to Port au Prince. He said he believed that the Haitian chief of security had been involved in arranging the demonstrations that occurred outside the palace. "I saw Guy Philippe there." Amb. Serulle had said he would take care of security, using only Haitian forces, with none from the UN.

BOLIVIA

17. (C) Morales Troncoso told U.S. officials that he had no intention of attending the inauguration of Evo Morales, scheduled to take place in the Bolivian highlands. "I told the President he could send Miguel Mejia," he joked. (This

week the presidency announced that Vice President Rafael Albuquerque would go, accompanied by the administration's roving ambassador Miguel Mejia, specialist in leftist and communist regimes.)

VENEZUELA

18. (C) Dominican relations with Venezuela have been "cool" since the Mar de Plata summit, Morales said. At one point after the departure of President Bush, Chavez turned to Fernandez in the midst of a harrangue and urged, "Leonel, say something." Fernandez did not respond, and left the meeting ten minutes later.

NICARAGUA AND ALEMAN

19. (C) As DAS Duddy absented himself briefly to take a telephone call, the Ambassador raised with Morales Troncoso USG interest in seeing effective prosecution of former president of Nicaragua Aleman and advised the Minister of evidence that Aleman had used Dominican financial institutions to launder some of the money. The Minister did not have an immediate comment.

MEXICO MEETING ON MIGRATION ISSUES, JANUARY 9

110. (C) When U.S. officials spoke of the moderate tone of the ministerial statement on migration issued January 9, Morales Troncoso replied, "That was written here in Santo Domingo." Following the Embassy demarche on January 5, the Dominican representative to the meeting MFA Undersecretary for Consular Affairs Rosario Graciano had prepared a draft for the meeting.

ANTI-TERRORISM INSTRUMENTS

HERTELL.

111. (C) As the Minister proceeded to the Ambassador's lunch for DAS Duddy and several Dominican cabinet members, EcoPol counselor raised with Morales Troncoso U.S. concern that the Dominicans had to date joined only four of the 13 international instruments used to combat terrorism. Morales Troncoso requested that the Embassy provide the details and status to his advisor Amb. Trujols, also attending the lunch. Trujols accepted the document at the end of the lunch, with thanks, and promised to verify the status of Dominican consideration of the conventions.

=======CABLE	ENDS====================================